

On the Prospects of a Government Shutdown

"If Harry Reid and President Obama would rather play political games and reject very modest cuts in this fiscal year then the government is headed for a shutdown and I frankly think we ought to be willing to have that confrontation. The American people know that this budget Paul Ryan is unveiling in a few minutes, is a long-term plan to change the fiscal direction of our government. But the fight starts right here, right now in this fiscal year and Republicans are determined to keep our word to the American people and fight for the budget cuts that will be a down payment on fiscal discipline."

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"I think we have got to be willing to stand with the American people who voted in overwhelming terms last year to change the fiscal direction of our national government. We pledged to the American people that we would find \$100 billion in savings off the president's number. That requires \$61 billion in budget cuts this year. But what you're seeing from Harry Reid and liberals in the Senate and what you're hearing from the White House this morning is they're unwilling to even accept this modest down payment on fiscal discipline, and you know, I learned a long time ago, sometimes things don't change here in Washington, D.C. until they have to. And I think we've got to be willing to dig in and fight to change the fiscal direction and change the fiscal direction of the national government this year."

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